

MILFORD HOME COMES HIGH

Cost of Maintaining Inmates Greatly in Excess of Grand Island Rates.

COMMANDANT FOWLER'S EXPLANATION

Points Out the Fact that His Institution is Compelled to Buy Fresh Meat and Milk for Its Uses.

LINCOLN, Dec. 10.—(Special.)—In his biennial report to Governor Poynter, Commandant Fowler of the Soldiers' and Sailors' home at Milford attempts to explain why it will be necessary for him to present a deficiency claim for over \$2,000 to the next legislature. His apology for the heavy expenditures of the institution is backed by a request for an increase of \$12,000 in the biennial appropriation and an allowance for the construction of a new home for the commandant and his family. Commandant Fowler refers in his report to the fact that the per capita cost of inmates at the Milford home is \$36.50 more than at the Grand Island home, but he excuses this condition on the ground that at the latter institution there is a large revenue from the sale of milk and meat. The report includes the following:

As there is no promise of a diminution of membership during the coming two years, it follows that the appropriation must be increased. The sums which the board has audited, divided by 2, the average membership for two years, makes the per capita cost of inmates \$36.50 per annum. As the cost of living, and judging the future by the past, it will be necessary to figure out the home for the next two years. While the per capita cost of living here is normally \$25.50 more than at Grand Island, it is not inappropriate to note the fact that at Grand Island they produce most of their own fresh meat and milk, which is not the case at the Milford home, but the board has not deemed it necessary to figure out the difference in detail.

The total amount appropriated for the maintenance of the home by the last legislature, not including permanent improvements, was \$15,750.

Secretary Furnas said that as of the \$100,000 expended by the board for state fair expenses during the last thirteen years only \$25,000 was given by the state.

He thought the next legislature should be asked for a slight increase in the biennial allowance.

The state committee of Dunkards will tomorrow decide upon a location for the national meeting to be held in Nebraska in May, 1901. Bids were presented tonight by Omaha, Hastings, Kearney, Aurora, Falls City, Superior and Fremont.

Lodge Meetings' Unique Finale.

AURORA, Neb., Dec. 10.—(Special.)—After the conclusion of the usual business proceedings of the Aurora lodge at its last meeting, Charles White arose and requested that the rules be suspended so that there were visitors applying for admittance. A minute later he stepped into the ante-room and reappeared with Miss Louise Voeberg on his arm and followed by Rev. Mase, who, before the astonished members realized just what was happening, united the smiling couple as man and wife. Relatives and friends had also been in waiting in the ante-room and the lodge meeting was quickly resolved into a very happy social affair. Mr. White is an old settler here.

Another fault in the revenue laws lies in the fact that all assessments for city, county and state purposes are consolidated. This makes it practically impossible to present the present assessment for the reason that it cannot be done in all counties at the same time and if one or more counties do it they simply bear the burden of more than their proportion of taxes for the support of the state government.

"Omaha has solved the problem in a satisfactory manner and Lincoln will attempt to do the same," said a councilman who is agitating a reform in the revenue laws. "In that city the assessment is made by a city assessor separately and apart from the assessment for the county and state. Here in Lincoln we will not ask for a change in the law because we wish to spend more money. We simply want to reduce the tax levy. Eastern communities base their taxation upon the proposed system and for that reason their tax levies are much smaller in proportion to population than here in the west where but one assessment for city, county and state is made. The rate of taxation has much to do in determining the financial condition of a city, and naturally enough eastern investors do not desire to place money or begin enterprises where that rate is so abnormally high."

Smyth's Assignment of Errors.

In his petition for a reversal of the recent judgment in the case of the state against the Omaha National Bank Attorney General Smyth has called the attention of the supreme court to twenty-five assignments of error in the proceedings before Judge Baker. The appeal was filed with the clerk of the supreme court late Saturday afternoon. After reciting the errors complained of the petition closes with a prayer for a reversal of the judgment and an order for a new trial.

The state's attorney asserts, first, that the court erred in overruling the motion of the state for a new trial and in rendering a judgment against the plaintiff upon

the verdict returned by the jury, which was contrary to law and the evidence in the case. Errors of law in the admission of testimony over the objections of the plaintiff are next cited, together with the charge that the court erred in its decision overruling the motion of the plaintiff to direct the jury to return a verdict in favor of the state and against the defendants for the sum of \$233,735.49. The attorney general also complains of irregularity in the proceedings of the court, by which, he asserts, the plaintiff was prevented from having a fair trial. Alleged errors in the giving of instructions form a large part of the petition, particular mention being made of the failure or refusal of the trial judge to give several instructions submitted for the state.

MORE MONEY FOR STATE FAIR

State Board of Agriculture Will Seek Increased Appropriation This Time.

LINCOLN, Dec. 10.—(Special Telegram.)—The executive committee of the State Board of Agriculture, consisting of Robert W. Furnas, of Brooklyn, C. S. Bassett, of Falls City, W. R. Mellor, of Loup City, E. L. Vance of Pawnee City, Peter Youngers of Geneva and E. McIntyre of Seward, met tonight to arrange for the annual meeting of the state board to be held here January 15. The committee also conferred with members of the Commercial club relative to plans for obtaining permanent fair grounds and buildings. It is generally agreed by the committee that efforts will be made to induce the legislature to appropriate money for the purpose of property for permanent use should be made by the citizens of Lincoln and not by the board. The following special committees were appointed:

Auditing—C. H. Ridge, Lincoln; E. M. Searle, Ogallala; E. Filley, Filley. Credentials—G. W. Harvey, Omaha; L. Morse, Benicoma; Charles Mann, Chadron. Revenue—E. L. Vance, Pawnee City; Peter Youngers, Geneva; R. W. Furnas, Brooklyn; W. R. Mellor, Loup City; T. A. McKim, Webster; M. W. Chappell, Minden.

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HOSSACK FAMILY TRAGEDY

Mystery That Surrounds the Terrible Murder of a Wealthy Farmer.

WIFE HELD FOR KILLING THE HUSBAND

Children Believe Their Mother is Innocent, Even Though There Are Circumstances That Seem Against Her.

INDIANOLA, Ia., Dec. 10.—(Special.)—Mrs. John Hossack, accused of the murder of her husband, will appear today before a justice of the peace for preliminary hearing. There is the greatest interest in the case and despite rumors that the defendant will waive examination and remain in jail until the grand jury considers the case expectation is high because of the forthcoming trial. What seemed a week ago to be a simple case of murder of a wealthy and strong-minded farmer by some unnamed enemy has developed into a most interesting mystery which can only be unraveled by delving into the domestic affairs of an interesting but typical farm home.

The murder occurred the night of December 1. The fatal blows were struck about midnight as Hossack was lying in bed. At first there was no doubt that it was done by an intruder in the home. Then followed the arrest of Mrs. Hossack at the grave where her husband's body had just been laid to rest with Masonic rites. Her firm demeanor, the presence of her four children, the crowd of excited neighbors who had come from far and near, the absence of any suspicion resting upon anyone until that time—all this gave peculiar interest to the case. The coroner's jury had refused to put the brand of Cain on anyone or offer any explanation of the crime. The testimony has been taken in secret. The scene of the tragedy, far out in the country near New Virginia, made it possible for all sorts of rumors to get out. But the people manifested no resentment toward Mrs. Hossack, especially since the other members of the family were firm in their belief of the innocence of their mother.

Her Story of the Night.

The court attorney caused the arrest of Mrs. Hossack. The evidence was entirely circumstantial. She says she was awakened by a noise as if someone clapped two boards together. She started for the door leading to another room. She saw a light, heard a door close, then called one of the girls from upstairs; called to her husband and got no response, and just as the children were coming to the room she was lighting the lamp. Hossack lay dying on the bed with which it was found the night under a grange near the house. Hossack was able to talk, but not to tell anything of the tragedy. He died the next day.

Why did Mrs. Hossack seek first to her husband? There was a rifle loaded and standing beside her bed. How did it happen that there was no blood on her clothes? How could the blow have been struck without harming her? How could the crime have been committed without her knowing it? Why did she call her children no calm? How was it that she was fully dressed when the children came into the room? These and other questions can only be answered by the supposition that Mrs. Hossack committed the crime.

But the mystery of the case is not solved. The house was not robbed and it was not known that Hossack had an enemy. It is said that there was trouble in the family. Certainly it was not more than comes to many other families. Mr. and Mrs. Hossack had been married thirty-one years. He was a large, rugged man of stern qualities, firm in his purposes and full of determination. She was also large, of spare build, a well-preserved woman of Scotch descent, and wonderfully self-possessed. They had four children. They had been reared carefully.

Another Story About a Boy.

Both of the Hossacks were of deep religious convictions, but they disagreed about the management of the children, and especially about the oldest son, Harry. All cases so far are of a mild form. Services were held at the Congregational church yesterday at which there were twenty-five new members received, and there will be a special service in the near future when ten more will be received into fellowship. All cases so far are of a mild form. These additions are the result of the special meetings conducted a short time ago by Evangelist Arthur T. Reed of Oberlin, O. Among the converts were a number of the business men.

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